CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for producing ammonia at a point of use from liquid water and nitrogen, comprising:

feeding a quantity of de-ionized water to a hydrogen generator;

producing a quantity of hydrogen from the quantity of de-ionized water utilizing said hydrogen generator;

producing a quantity of purified hydrogen by passing said quantity of hydrogen through a hydrogen purifier;

producing a quantity of purified nitrogen by passing a quantity of nitrogen through a nitrogen purifier; and

contacting said quantity of purified hydrogen and said quantity of purified nitrogen with a catalyst bed, wherein a portion of said purified hydrogen and a portion of said purified nitrogen react to form a quantity of ammonia at the point of use.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

de-gassing said quantity of de-ionized water prior to feeding the de-ionized water to said hydrogen generator, to remove a portion of dissolved gasses in said quantity of de-ionized water.

3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein said quantity of de-ionized water is de-gassed in a membrane contactor, having a first stage followed by a second stage.

4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein in said first stage, a first portion of said dissolved gassed are removed by nitrogen stripping.

5. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein in said second stage, a second portion of said dissolved gasses are removed by vacuum stripping.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

compressing said quantity of purified hydrogen and said quantity of purified nitrogen prior to contacting said quantity of purified hydrogen and said quantity of purified nitrogen with said catalyst bed.

7. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein said quantity of purified hydrogen and said quantity of purified nitrogen are compressed to a pressure between about 10 to about 100 atmospheres, absolute.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

producing a quantity of purified ammonia at the point of use by passing said quantity of ammonia through an ammonia purifier.

9. The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

delivering a portion of said quantity of purified ammonia to a semiconductor process tool at the point of use.

10. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said ammonia purifier comprises a high surface area metal oxide comprising oxides of barium, calcium, iron, lithium, manganese, molybdenum, potassium, rhenium, sodium, strontium, titanium, tungsten or vanadium.

11. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein at least one of said ammonia purifier, said hydrogen purifier, and said nitrogen purifier are regenerated with a portion of said quantity of purified hydrogen.

12. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the concentration of an impurity in said quantity of purified ammonia is reduced to less than about 50 ppb.

13. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the concentration of an impurity in said quantity of purified ammonia is reduced to less than about 10 ppb.

14. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said hydrogen purifier comprises

a high surface area metal oxide comprising oxides of barium, calcium, iron, lithium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, potassium, rhenium, sodium, strontium, titanium, tungsten, or vanadium; and
optionally, metallic nickel.

15. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said nitrogen purifier comprises a nickel catalyst.

16. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said hydrogen generator produces hydrogen from water by electrolytic means.

17. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the concentration of an impurity in said quantity of purified hydrogen is reduced to less than about 50 ppb.

18. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the concentration of an impurity in said quantity of purified nitrogen is reduced to less than about 50 ppb.

19. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the concentration of an impurity in said quantity of purified hydrogen is reduced to less than about 10 ppb.

20. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the concentration of an impurity in said quantity of purified nitrogen is reduced to less than about 10 ppb.

21. A method for producing point of use ammonia from liquid water and nitrogen, comprising:

de-gassing a quantity of de-ionized water, to remove a portion of dissolved gasses in said quantity of de-ionized water;

feeding a quantity of said de-ionized, de-gassed water to a hydrogen generator;

producing a quantity of hydrogen from the quantity of said de-ionized, de-gassed water utilizing said hydrogen generator;

producing a quantity of purified hydrogen by passing said quantity of hydrogen through a hydrogen purifier;

producing a quantity of purified nitrogen by passing a quantity of nitrogen through a nitrogen purifier;

compressing said quantity of purified hydrogen and said quantity of purified nitrogen;

contacting said compressed quantity of purified hydrogen and said compressed quantity of purified nitrogen with a catalyst bed, wherein a portion of said purified hydrogen and a portion of said purified nitrogen react to form a quantity of ammonia;

producing a quantity of purified ammonia at the point of use by passing said quantity of ammonia through an ammonia purifier; and

delivering a portion of said quantity of purified ammonia to a semiconductor process tool at the point of use.

22. A method for producing purified hydrogen gas from liquid water, at a point of use comprising:

feeding a quantity of de-ionized water to a degasser sufficient to remove oxygen to a level of about 1 ppb or less and CO_2 to a level of about 1 ppm or less;

feeding said degassed water to a hydrogen generator;

producing a quantity of hydrogen from the quantity of de-ionized water utilizing said hydrogen generator;

producing a quantity of purified hydrogen at the point of use by passing said quantity of hydrogen through a hydrogen purifier.

23. A method for producing ammonia at a point of use from liquid water and nitrogen, comprising:

feeding a quantity of de-ionized water to a hydrogen generator;

producing a quantity of hydrogen from the quantity of de-ionized water utilizing said hydrogen generator;

producing a quantity of purified hydrogen by passing said quantity of hydrogen through a hydrogen purifier;

producing a quantity of purified nitrogen by passing a quantity of nitrogen through a nitrogen purifier; and

contacting said quantity of purified hydrogen and said quantity of purified nitrogen with a catalyst bed, wherein a portion of said purified hydrogen and a portion of said purified nitrogen react to form a quantity of ammonia at the point of use; and

producing a quantity of purified ammonia at the point of use by passing said quantity of ammonia through an ammonia purifier.